

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
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R 061500Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3528

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNATO BRUSSELS 0011

AMEMBASSY PARIS UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ZAGREB 008

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, USSR

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PRESS COMMENT ABOUT SOVIET DENIAL OF INTENTION
TO INTERVENE IN YUGOSLAVIA

1. THE ZAGREB DAILY, "VJESNIK", CARRIED A REPORT JANUARY 6 FROM ITS MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT COMMENTING ON A "PRAVDA" ARTICLE BY MILAN BEKIC WHICH DEALT WITH THE STATEMENT BY NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS IN AN INTERVIEW (WHICH APPEARED RECENTLY IN VIENNA'S "DIE PRESSE") THAT SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN YUGOSLAVIA "WAS NOT COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE." AFTER NOTING THAT ZHUKOV "DERIDES" WESTERN SPECULATION ABOUT SUCH INTERVENTION, BEKIC CRITICIZES BOTH LUNS AND THE SOVIET JOURNALIST FOR EVEN CONSIDERING YUGOSLAVIA IN THIS CONTEXT. WHILE LABELING SUCH SPECULATIONS "NORMAL SLANDER", BEKIC SAYS IT IS NEVERTHELESS UNPLEASANT AND LEAVES THE IMPRESSION OF AN ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE "SPIRIT OF YALTA." BEKIC EMPHASIZES THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS "AN INDEPENDENT, NONALIGNED AND SOCIALIST COUNTRY", WHICH NEEDS NO "TUTORS".

2. BELGRADE COMMENT: POLITIKA'S MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT

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(BAJALSKI) DEALT WITH SIMILAR THEME JANUARY 7 IN PIECE

TITLED "WHY DENY INVENTIONS". NOTING THAT SOCIET
PRESS IS USUALLY ABOVE DENYING INACCURATE FOREIGN
REPORTS WHICH CRITICIZE SOVIET UNION, BAJALSKI WONDERED
WHY TASS BOTHERED TO DENY PIECE IN PARISIAN VALEURS
NOUVELLES REPORTING THAT A 'PLAN OF A CONFEDERATION OF
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES" WOULD BE REVIEWED AT 25TH CPSU
CONGRESS. FRENCH PAPER ALLEGED THAT "PLAN" IS "MALICIOUS
MANEUVER" AIMED AT "SWALLOWING UP" EE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING
YUGOSLAVIA. OSTENSIBLY ANSWERING HIS HEADLINE BY
IMPLYING ACCEPTANCE OF TASS CHARGE THAT "PLAN" WAS
INVENTED TO UNDERMINE ACTIVITY OF SOCIALIST STATES,
BAJALSKI ADDED THAT RUSSIANS ALSO PRIVATELY BELIEVE
WESTERN PROPAGANDA PLANS TO CREATE DISSENTION IN
SOCIALIST RANKS ON EVE OF CONGRESS. BUT HE DID NOT
REALLY DISPEL LINGERING QUESTION AS TO WHY SOVIETS
WOULD THIS TIME CHOOSE TO DIGNIFY AN INVENTION WITH A DENIAL.
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